

NEWS RELEASE

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Many Unemployed Workers in California to Experience an Interruption in Jobless Benefits

SACRAMENTO – A few hundred thousand unemployed workers currently relying on extension benefits to help sustain them while looking for new work in this weakened economy may now experience an interruption in their Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Some may find their benefits stopped all together. These possibilities are due to the fact that Congress has yet to take action to extend expired provisions of the federal extension program and the associated filing deadlines for such benefits.

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is sending notifications to claimants in an effort to alert customers to the delay in authorizing any further access to extension benefits. For now, unless and until filing deadlines are extended by Congress, the department will not be able to file any further extension claims past the current filing deadlines.

‘We at EDD certainly understand that limitations in the total amount of UI benefits available are a critical concern to our customers who rely on these benefits,’ said EDD Chief Deputy Director Pam Harris. “It was anticipated nationally that filing deadlines would be extended for these benefits, but Congress has not yet taken action to do so. So we are now alerting our customers about the impacts of further delays in re-authorizing extension benefits, or even the possibility of no further action at all.”

The last day an unemployed individual could file for any further extension tiers was Sunday, May 30, 2010, and June 6, 2010, was the last day to file for the separate extended benefit extension known as the FED-ED extension in California. The impacts without further federal intervention include:

- No further checks will be issued for those collecting on the separate FED-ED extension, making the week ending June 12 the last payable week for these benefits.
- Unemployed workers collecting on a regular UI claim of up to 26 weeks or on one of the four other federal extension tiers of benefits will be able to continue collecting benefits on that tier, but will not be able to start any further tiers of extension benefits.

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- Any new UI claims filed after May 23, 2010, will not be augmented with the additional \$25 per week stimulus payments. Such payments were authorized through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in April 2009. Those already receiving the extra \$25 per week of benefits paid will be able to continue receiving this augmentation until they run out of their current regular UI or federal extension tier.

The impacts of any interruption in extension availability will abruptly hit those unemployed workers now collecting on the separate FED-ED extension. As of June 14, 2010, there are close to 100,000 individuals collecting up to 20 additional weeks of benefits once they ran out of all other regular UI and extension benefits available.

Since April 2009, the potential maximum of up to 20 weeks of FED-ED benefits added to the potential maximum of up to 26 weeks of benefits in a regular UI claim and up to 53 weeks of benefits in four federal extension tiers have brought the potential total maximum amount of unemployment benefits up to 99 weeks in California, as well as other higher unemployment states.

With no further congressional action, the last payable week for FED-ED benefits is the week ending June 12, 2010. That's the case for all FED-ED claimants no matter how far into a FED-ED extension they are or what their balance may be on this extension. Notices being sent to these claimants include information about local resources and services that may be of further assistance. Such resources include One-Stop Career Centers for job search and training assistance, county welfare offices for CalWORKS and other programs to assist families in need, and the WeConnect Web site created by First Lady of California Maria Shriver to connect families with programs and services designed to help them get ahead.

There are currently more than 1.5 million people in California certifying for UI benefits. All claimants would be affected at one point or another by limits to the total of extension benefits available if no further congressional action is taken.

Those more at immediate risk of experiencing disruptions in benefits are those who have either just run out of their regular UI benefits or current tier of extension benefits, or those who are nearing the end of such claims. EDD is maintaining a list of the claimants who have just run out of their regular UI benefits or one of the tiers of federal extension benefits. In the event extension filing deadlines are eventually extended, EDD will automatically file further extension claims for these customers and notify them of the additional benefits for which they might then qualify.

However, while Congress may take further action in the future and extend the filing deadlines, there is no discussion at this time about providing any additional weeks of benefits to the current potential 99-week maximum. As of June 14, more than 129,000 unemployed workers in California have run out of all available unemployment benefits.

The EDD encourages our customers to closely monitor our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov for continuing developments on federal extensions. You can also sign up for our [Twitter](#) messages so you are alerted as soon as any new information is posted on our Web site.

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For news media inquiries only, contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Communications Office, at (916) 654-9029. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.